

# Toxic Stress Steering Committee

## Meeting Summary

November 7, 2014

### **Attendees:**

In person: Dr. Gina DiRenzo-Coffey, Betty Medinger, Mary [Katie] Bohn, Ming Qu, Jennifer Severe-Oforah, Sarah Ann Kotchian, Heather Leschinsky, Paula Eurek, Richard Mettler, Tiffany Mullison, and Mai Dang.

On phone: Brandon Verzal, Sara Nicholson, and Joan Luebbers

### **Welcome & Introductions**

Richard Mettler called the meeting to order at 10:00am. Steering Committee members introduced themselves and Richard previewed the agenda.

### **Review October 17, 2014 Meeting Summary**

Members accepted the October Meeting Summary as presented.

### **Related Statewide Initiatives**

Tiffany invited members to share about initiatives relevant to the work of the Toxic Stress Steering Committee.

- **Prevention Partnership:** Paula Eurek and Betty Medinger shared the Partnership originated through a memorandum between the Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board and DHHS-Children and Family Services. The agreement was updated in 2010 to include DHHS Behavioral Health and DHHS-Public Health. The original charge was to work on child abuse prevention. The Partnership now includes Nebraska Department of Education, Probation, and Senators. The focus is broader and focuses on improving outcomes for children and families. The Partnership has a draft Group Charter. Three subgroups include: behavioral health group, data group, and support group for children in the foster care system. The draft Charter will be provided later to the Toxic Stress Steering Committee.
- **Nebraska Children's Commission:** Betty Medinger shared the Commission is charged with creating a statewide strategic plan to reform child welfare programs and services in the state. It is a public-private partnership.  
Website link: <http://www.childrens.nebraska.gov/>
- **Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board:** Betty Medinger and Brandon Verzal shared information about the Board. The Board has \$200,000/year to allocate. In the past, an RFP was issued. Current funding priorities include evidence-informed and evidence-based practices on promoting parent-child interaction and supporting mental health practitioners. The funding supports PCIT – Parent Child Interaction Therapy; PIWI – Parents Interacting with Infants, Hasting 357, and the World/Parent Café model in targeted communities. The programs are at their 4<sup>th</sup> year funding. After the 5<sup>th</sup> year, the Board will evaluate currently funded initiatives and determine the best path forward. The Board also supports the Child Abuse Councils across the state and campaigns/events such as Pinwheels for Prevention.  
Website link: [http://www.preventchildabusene.org/partners/fund\\_board.html](http://www.preventchildabusene.org/partners/fund_board.html)

- **Nebraska Maternal & Child Health Needs Assessment:** Jennifer Sever-Oforah provided an update. The Needs Assessment is completed every five years, administered through DHHS. The group is in charge of looking at trends and disparities to help set priorities and make decisions about program or organizational improvement and allocation of resources. The report is due July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015. 90 people are participating into this year's program, divided into 5 sub-groups.  
Link: <http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Documents/NeedsAssessmen2010FINAL.pdf>
- **Early Childhood Data Coalition:** Sarah Ann Kotchian shared that the coalition is an outgrowth of several private and public partners and stakeholders. The coalition works on 15 key indicators to collect and provide data related to child welfare and well-being of early childhood across the state. Sarah shared their 2012-2015 report. The coalition also works to support some federal funding projects for two priorities: 1. Enhance collaboration regarding data; 2. Make recommendations for developing a unified early childhood data system. Sarah shared a report of the second priority.  
Website link: [http://www.education.ne.gov/oec/data\\_coalition.html](http://www.education.ne.gov/oec/data_coalition.html)
- **Raising Nebraska:** Dr. Gina DiRenzo-Coffey introduced Raising Nebraska, which focuses on professional education about early childhood brain development, and parent education (educating about conception through pregnancy, early months, parental bonding, skin to skin etc.) The program has a website, Facebook page, and a twitter page. Members are invited to like the pages and help share them. Tiffany will introduce someone who can write a blog about Step up to Quality to post on Raising Nebraska webpage.  
Website link: <http://www.raisingnebraska.org/>
- **Step up to Quality:** is a quality rating improvement system for family and center based child cares across Nebraska.  
Website link: <http://www.education.ne.gov/StepUpToQuality/>
- **Leadership team for the Pyramid Model:** According to Betty Medinger, this initiative has been around for a few years, focusing on social and emotional development for the early childhood system of care [children ages 0 to 8]. Participating communities implement the Pyramid model in their early childhood system, and point out what kinds of system focuses they want to address at the community level. It is an emerging initiative.

### **Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats**

Richard provided instructions on the SWOT. Members were divided into small groups, with each group recording ideas on the flip chart pages in the room. Members could add, but not remove any comments, and were instructed to capture comments so the comments would be clear to others.

### **Next Steps**

Tiffany will send out a scheduling poll for 2015 meetings. Members agreed to meet monthly, on Friday mornings.

The December meeting will focus on the SWOT. The January meeting will include materials from the Prevention Partnership as an example of outcomes.

The meeting concluded at 12:00pm.